The Minstry of the power had asked the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) as a Consultant, to suggest legislative changes it considered necessary to accelerate the reforms process. the NCAER has submitted a draft Electricity Bill to replace the existing three electricity laws [The Indian Electricity Act, 1910, The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998].

The Draft Electricity Bill, 2000 as submitted by the NCAER has been circulated to all concerned including the State Governements for their comments. Detailed discussions have been held with States, State Electricity Boards, Regulatory Commission, Experts, Chambers of Commerce and Private Utilities. The NCAER have since revised the draft in the light of the discussions and comments. The revised draft is now being discussed with concerned stake-holders.

Raichur Thermal Power Station in Karnataka

2874. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have declared Raichur Thermal Power Station in Karnataka as a hazardous unit;

(b) if so, the reason therefore; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to prevent emergencies at the above station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) has been declared as hazardous units due to requirement of storage of chlorine beyond 10 tonnes. Given the fact that RTPS consumes 8 tonnes of chlorine per week and chlorine is transported all the way from Rayalseema in Andhra Pradesh, the transportation time is 6-7 days and hence RTPS needs to have storage of chlorine not less than 10 tonnes.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has constituted a district crisis group to review the safety aspects. At Raichur thermal power station, neutralising water tanks and scrubber system are provided as emergerncy measure for arresting any leakage of chlorine gas.